



PATRICIA HARLESS
DISTRICT 126
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 27, 2009

Ms. Candace Tannous
10014 Jademont
Houston, TX 77070

Dear Ms. Tannous:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the voter ID legislation. This bill was of great concern to constituents in District 126, and I appreciate hearing your opinion on this legislation. This legislation has not reached the House floor due to prolonged debate on the Local and Consent calendar. If you are interested in more information on this legislation, please logon to www.capitol.state.tx.us.

Again, thank you for taking the time to let me know of your opposition to the voter ID bill. It is an honor to represent you at the State Capitol, and I welcome your opinion on legislation that is important to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patricia Harless



COMMITTEES
STATE AFFAIRS • TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & WORKFORCE • REDISTRICTING



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LEG00000702

Patricia Harless

From: Patricia Harless
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2009 9:42 AM
To: 'Wilton Chalker'
Subject: RE: Legislative update

Dear Mr. Chalker:

Thank you for taking the time to email me regarding your perspective on the Voter ID issue. This legislation was of great concern to many constituents in District 126, and I appreciate hearing your opinion on this bill.

The University of Texas polled Texans from across the state on the issue of voter identification prior to this legislative session. In response, 70% of Texans believed that there should be some form of identification for voting, so I have not viewed voter id as a strictly partisan issue. You may review this University of Texas poll by logging on to http://texaspolitics.laits.utexas.edu/11_1_1.html. The voter id legislation filed this Session took lead from policies enacted by the State of Indiana. The Supreme Court has ruled that the photo identification policy of Indiana was reasonable and neutral with the intent to stop voter fraud and voter impersonation. Additionally, several other nations, such as Canada, Mexico, Germany, France, and Greece to name a few, require photo identification for voting to ensure that there is not repetitive or deceptive voting.

Another good source of information on the voter id issue is a recent article from the Austin American Statesman that may be accessed at <http://www.statesman.com/news/content/region/legislature/stories/05/31/0531voterid.html>. Throughout the session, my office received numerous emails and phone calls from constituents requesting support of a voter ID measure and a few constituents contacted me in opposition to this legislation. As bills are filed and debated on the House floor, I pay close attention to all correspondence from my constituents and weigh all the information both for and against the legislation.

The issue of guns on campus' has been an intense debate among Texans and legislators alike. As an advocate of gun rights myself, I support a citizen's right to bear arms. House Bill 1893 had both good points and bad points, but this bill did not make it to the House floor so I never saw the final version.

Again, thank you for contacting me regarding these issues. I hope that this information is helpful. It is an honor to represent you at the State Capitol, and I welcome your opinion on issues that are important to you. If you are interested in more information on the legislative process, please logon to www.capitol.state.tx.us. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patricia

*Patricia Harless
State Representative
District 126
512.463.0496 (Capitol office)*

6/3/2009

CONFIDENTIAL

LEG00000703

Patricia Harless

From: Patricia Harless
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2009 11:23 AM
To: JPr3982042@aol.com
Subject: RE: Legislative Update From Patricia Harless

Mr. Probst,

I received your email below. In response to your comment that Voter ID is a Republican Issue, I wanted to provide you with the following study; http://texaspolitics.laits.utexas.edu/11_1_1.html. The study, conducted by the University of Texas shows that 69% of Texans believe that identification should be shown when a person is voting. That percentage was also reflected in the number of calls, letters and emails my office received on this issue. The Voter ID bill that was to be taken up by the legislature was patterned after Indiana's law which the Supreme Court found to be reasonable and neutral with the intent to stop voter fraud and voter impersonation. The United States is one of the few countries that does not have a nation-wide policy requiring identification in order to vote. Canada, Mexico, Germany, France, Greece, and even Iraq require photo identification to ensure that there is not repetitive or deceptive voting.

Taking 5 days to complete the Local Calendar, not only killed Voter ID, but ultimately killed other bills of significant importance supported by both Democrats and Republicans. This article, <http://www.statesman.com/news/content/region/legislature/stories/05/31/0531voterid.html> which ran in the Austin American Statesman this past weekend, provides a good analysis of the situation.

When I sent my Legislative Update it was not my intention to make the Democrats the "scapegoat", but to explain what was happening in the House at the time, and the tactics that were being used. I believe it was an accurate representation, and have provided links to several articles from around the state which categorized the situation the same way.

It is my job as the State Representative of District 126 to represent my constituents in a manner that reflects their point of view. This is a responsibility that I take very seriously and work hard to make sure that I am informed on issues when I vote. I prefer to base my decisions on facts, and input from my constituents, not partisan politics or media spin. If you don't vote for me I hope that you make that decision based on having met me or informing yourself on my complete voting record, rather than my stance on one issue or the fact that I'm Republican.

Corpus Christi Caller-Times/Associated Press

Legislation big and small in peril

By Kelly Shannon

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/T/TX_XGR_ARE_THEY_DEAD_YET_TXOL-?SITE=TXCOR&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2009-05-25-16-50-42

Austin American Statesman Virtual Capitol

Straus criticizes Dems tactics

By Corrie MacLaggan

http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/politics/entries/2009/05/25/straus_criticizes_dems_tactics.html

San Antonio Express-News

Democrats spend third straight day stalling the House

By Gary Scharer

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/politics/texas_legislature/Democrats_spend_third_straight_day_stalling

Dallas Morning News

Democrats' tactics take down voter ID bill in Texas House

By Emily Ramshaw

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/052509dntswvoterid.4673223.html>

Quorum Report

6/16/2009

TIR Poll Suggests Price to Pay for Blocking TDI Sunset: Laying the groundwork for 2010?
May 25, 2009

www.quorumreport.com

Associated Press

Gridlock grips Texas Legislature in final days.

By Jay Root Associated Press Writer

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6438783.html>

Dallas Morning News

Standoff on voter ID bill tests House Speaker Joe Straus' leadership

By Christy Hoppe and Robert T. Garrett

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/politics/state/stories/052409dntswhouse.4799427.html>

Sincerely,

Patricia Harless

State Representative

District 126

512.463.0496 (Capitol office)

281.376.4114 (District office)

From: JPr3982042@aol.com [mailto:JPr3982042@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 8:45 PM

To: Patricia Harless

Subject: Re: Legislative Update From Patricia Harless

Inresponse you your stateing the the D's atalled legislation. Let you advise you that Voter ID has been a Rep problem and citizens of TX do not see it as a problem.

Let's work toward why we electeded you! (I did not!) Dem's are not the whole problem in this state. Jeez! Convenient scapegoat, tho. And then there's Dan Patrick! Yippee! A CA transplant who loves Houston and the Gulf Coast.

In a message dated 5/27/2009 6:30:17 P.M. Central Daylight Time, Patricia.Harless@house.state.tx.us writes:



Dear Friends,

As you probably know, over the past several days the Democrats stalled consideration of the Voter ID bill by talking excessively about bills that normally would sail through the chamber without debate. While this tactic successfully stalled consideration of Voter ID for 5 days, and did achieve the goal of killing the measure, the actions also killed the following major pieces of legislation:

SB 14 - Texas Windstorm Insurance Program

SB 182 - Informed Consent Ultra-Sound Bill

6/16/2009

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LEG00000705

Ashlee Jahn

From: Patricia Harless
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 3:40 PM
To: geneandbrenda@sbcglobal.net
Subject: RE: Voter ID

Dear Mr. Miller,

Thank you for emailing me your thoughts on the Voter ID bill. I believe strong Voter ID legislation is essential for our State to have honest and accurate elections. A bill requiring a government photo id to vote (Senate Bill 14) has already passed the Texas Senate. I support the bill's requirements, and I will be voting for the bill as it makes its way through the Texas House of Representatives. If you are interested in tracking the progress of this bill or any other legislation, please logon to www.capitol.state.tx.us for more information.

Thank you again for contacting me. I always appreciate hearing from my constituents, and I am grateful for you taking the time to let me know your thoughts. Please feel free to contact my office if you have further questions about this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia Harless
State Representative
District 126
512.463.0496 (Capitol office)
281.376.4114 (District office)

From: geneandbrenda@sbcglobal.net[SMTP:GENEANDBRENDA@SBCGLOBAL.NET]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 2:29:49 PM
To: District126 Harless
Subject: Voter ID
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Name: Mr. William E Miller
Address: 9711 Cane Creek Dr.
City: Houston
State: Texas
Zipcode: 77070
Phone: -
E-mail: geneandbrenda@sbcglobal.net

Message:

Dear Rep. Harless;

It has come to my attention that some of the Republicans in our State government are planning on weakening the Voter ID Bill. This is not what we want. We need a bill that REQUIRES any person who is a citizen of the United States and a citizen of Texas to have a valid ID when they vote. By valid ID, I am talking about a Drivers license, government ID (with the persons picture on it) or any other legal government ID.

Please talk to ALL REPUBLICANS IN OFFICE, and make sure that they DO NOT WEAKEN THE BILL BY CHANGING IT.

Thank you for your time

ComputerIP: 76.199.75.3

Ashlee Jahn

From: Patricia Harless
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 3:58 PM
To: lyoungblood9@comcast.net
Subject: RE: Update from Representative Patricia Harless - THE LATEST VOTER FRAUD
Attachments: EVMAIL.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Youngblood,

Thank you for your email regarding the Secretary of State's website page about requesting an application for a ballot by mail. I appreciate you taking the time to keep my office informed of your concerns and suggestions.

My staff spoke with Ms. Melanie Huff, the staff attorney for the Elections Division at the office of the Secretary of State, to inquire whether they could add the check boxes (over 65, disabled, etc) to their webpage on requesting an application for a ballot. Ms. Huff informed us that the SOS generally recommends that Applications for Ballots by Mail (ABBM)s be made easily available without questioning the requestor about his or her eligibility for voting by mail. She explained, it can be very intimidating for many voters (particularly the elderly and disabled) to call and request an ABBM. For this reason, the early voting clerk will handle eligibility issues once he or she receives a completed and signed ABBM, and not at the point where an ABBM is only being requested. Attached is their office's outline that they use to train early voting clerks in the mechanics of early voting by mail. Here is a link to the form that is used to advise a voter when his or her ABBM is being rejected and why: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/pol-sub/5-16f.pdf>.

Voter fraud is an important issue to me, and I believe strong Voter ID legislation is essential for our State to have honest and accurate elections. A bill requiring a government photo id to vote (Senate Bill 14) has already passed the Texas Senate. I support the bill's requirements, and I will be voting for the bill as it makes its way through the Texas House of Representatives. If you are interested in tracking the progress of this bill or any other legislation, please log on to www.capitol.state.tx.us for more information.

Thank you again for contacting me. I always appreciate hearing from my constituents, and I am grateful for you taking the time to let me know your thoughts and suggestions. Please feel free to contact my office if you have further questions about this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia Harless
State Representative
District 126
512.463.0496 (Capitol office)
281.376.4114 (District office)

From: Larry Youngblood [mailto:lyoungblood9@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 12:42 PM
To: 'Patricia Harless'

Cc: Patricia Harless

Subject: Update from Representative Patricia Harless - THE LASTEST VOTER FRAUD

Importance: High

Recently, I was told of a democratic Hispanic group jumping for joy saying ~" the Senate bill did nothing on paper ballots...that is how we will continue doing what we want to do".... Now , I know those who ask for paper ballots must follow the law and sign "under penalty of law"....but it appears they do not care...especially as often as they currently use false documents.

They website for asking for a paper ballot does not have check boxes nor a warning of the penalty for sending in a false ballot....Can we at least get the web site changed such that there are check boxes for 1) Over 65 Y/N 2) Disabled, Y/N....etc 5) Are you a citizen of the US and a statement that says "under penalty of law the information you have provided is correct"...

I know we cannot stop them from voting paper ballots illegally, but we may be able to discourage illegal voters and better enforce the law later if in fact they do request a paper ballot illegally.

Thanks and good luck in your assignments.

Below is the screen for requesting paper ballots....We need those other reminding qualifying check boxes and a reminder that it is against the law to....whatever wording your committee will be comfortable with.

Request an Application for a Ballot by Mail - Windows Internet Explorer

http://w03w... Texas Mail in Ballot

Windows Live Texas Mail in Ballot Sign in

Favorites Black Prolife Movement (2) Black Prolife Movement

Request an Application... Page Safety

Home | Site Index | Help | Contacts | Press Office

Request an Application for a Ballot by Mail

Please send application(s) to:

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP/Postal Code:

Country (leave blank if USA):

Internet | Protected Mode: Off 125%

Ashlee Jahn

From: Patricia Harless
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 2:39 PM
To: adrian.shelley@swiftenergy.com
Subject: RE: Form submission from patriciaharless.com

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

Dear Ms. Shelley,

Thank you for emailing me regarding your thoughts on the Voter ID legislation, as well as, education and the appropriations under consideration this legislative session. Education is an important component to the success of our state and a priority issue to me. We must produce a qualified workforce to ensure a growing economy in our state.

With Texas facing a \$27 billion budget deficit this legislative session, the Legislature will be seeking to close the budget gap by examining every state expenditure. We must be very careful to not make short sighted cuts, which will have significant costs down the road. I do support using a portion of the Rainy Day Fund to help fund education. While I don't sit on the Public Education or Appropriations Committees, my staff and I have been following this issue and researching the proposed budget cuts, including those to education. I will carefully monitor the progress of legislation that impacts school funding as it makes its way through the legislative process.

Thank you again for your email. While we may not agree on all issues, I always appreciate hearing from my constituents. I am grateful for you taking the time to contact me. My State email is checked much more frequently, so in the future please use patricia.harless@house.state.tx.us for a quicker response.

Sincerely,

Patricia Harless
State Representative
District 126
512.463.0496 (Capitol office)
281.376.4114 (District office)

-----Original Message-----

From: patricia@patriciaharless.com
To: patricia@patriciaharless.com
Sent: Wed, Mar 23, 2011 9:15 am
Subject: Form submission from patriciaharless.com

Comments: I was impressed when you addressed our class at Northwoods recently. Now I am embarrassed over this voter ID bill. You are clearly uninformed regarding a bill you are introducing, which is not needed. There has been virtually no voter fraud. Get to work on more funding for education that is important.

Email-Address: adrian.shelley@swiftenergy.com
First-Name: Adrian